Allocation for construction and conversion works in Himachal Pradesh

467. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that former Chief Minister and Members of Parliament of Himachal Pradesh have requested last year as well as this year to extend Kalka-Parvanoo B.G., Chandigarh-Jagddhari-Paunta Sahib-Dehradun, Baijnath to Bhanupalli *via* Mandi-Bilaspur B.G., convert the metergauge lines into B.G. line of Pathankot Jogendra Nagar, Kangra valley and to allocate more funds as well as expedite construction work of Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Rampur, Ghanauli-Pinjore *via* Nalagarh-Baddi and Kumarhatti-Dehradun rail lines; and

(b) if so, whether the budget allocation has been enhanced and work has been expedited and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) The requests have been received for the construction of the proposed lines. The work of construction of new line between Kalka-Parwanoo has already been taken up. For construction of this line, the matter with regard to acquisition of land in Kambli village in Himachal Pradesh has been taken up with the Government of Himachal Pradesh who have proposed to change the location of terminus station from Kambli to Tipra. In view of the space constraints at Tipra, the State Government has been advised to reconsider the matter. Once the final stand of the State Government is known and land is made available, the physical work of construction of this line would be started.

The proposal of construction of rail line between Bhanupalli and Bilaspur has also been examined with the State Government of Himachal Pradesh on cost sharing basis. State Government has agreed to take necessary action for tying up the funds with the financial institutions and the beneficiaries. Further action in the matter would be taken on getting response from the State Government.

The requests of construction of other proposed lines are not considered feasible in view of constraint of resources and large shelf of on-going new line projects.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.